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DEPARTMENT FOR PM/WRA (WILLIAMS AND BAKER)

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [KPOA](#) [NATO](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: SPAIN PLANS TO DESTROY ITS CLUSTER MUNITIONS
ARSENAL

REF: SECSTATE 73257

1. (SBU) Poloffs on July 9 delivered REFTEL demarche to senior officials in the Ministry of Defense (Brigadier General Munoz Castresana in the office of the Secretary General for Defense Policy) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Deputy Director General for Arms Control Ignacio Sanchez), and shared with them our new policy on cluster munitions. The demarche came just as Spanish Defense Minister Carme Chacon announced in Congress that Spain planned to accelerate its compliance with the terms agreed to at the May 30 Dublin meeting of the Oslo Process on conventional weapons and destroy its cluster munitions arsenal "in the near future." Defense Minister Chacon reiterated this policy change during her July 17 appearance before the Congressional Defense Commission. Nearly 5,000 units reportedly are to be destroyed beginning later this month and this step would make Spain the first country to prohibit cluster munitions and destroy its arsenal. Post understands the Spanish Chief of Defense was not consulted on his government's decision before it was announced. The Spanish Air Force has in the past used these types of munitions for aircraft runway denial and is the branch of military service most likely to be affected. Aguirre